

Appl. No. 10/728,311
Amendment dated December 15, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12, 27-35 stand canceled.

Claim 13 has been amended to independent form, and claims 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26 have been amended to depend from claim 13. All pending dependent claims 14-26 depend from claim 13.

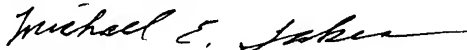
Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gillingham et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US-2003/0037675 in view of Barris et al. U.S. Patent 4,650,506. The Examiner points to Barris et al. '506 as disclosing a filter basis weight of 0.02 to 1.0 grams per square meter noting Col. 3, line 56 to Col. 4, line 68. In response, it is respectfully noted that the main filter substrate 12 in Barris et al. '506 is disclosed at Col. 3, lines 59-60, as having a basis weight about 0.0018 to 0.015 gm/cm² (grams per square centimeter). It is respectfully noted that this range, when converted to grams per square meter, equates to 18 to 150 gm/m², which is not the range defined in claim 13. Furthermore, the ranges set forth in Barris et al. '506 at Col. 4, lines 43-68, are for efficiency layer 14, not the main filter element. Consideration and allowance of claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-26 depend from claim 13 and define subcombinations which are believed allowable.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance with claims 13-26, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

ANDRUS, SCEALES, STARKE & SAWALL, LLP



Michael E. Taken
(Reg. No. 28,120)

100 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
(414) 271-7590